

~~Please cancel claims 12 and 13.~~

REMARKS

Claims 6-13 have been examined. Claims 1-5 were withdrawn from consideration without traverse and stand cancelled. Applicant hereby amends claim 6 and cancels claims 12 and 13. Accordingly claims 6-11 remain in the application.

Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tomaki or Botazzi. Claims 6-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Schmidt, et al. Claims 9 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Schmidt, et al. in view of Matone, Jr., et al. Claim 11 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Schmidt, et al. in view of Mottmiller, et al.

Tomaki, Botazzi and Schmidt, et al. each disclose handheld electronics devices similar in overall appearance to the present invention. The housings of Botazzi and Schmidt, et al. are split along a generally horizontal, longitudinal plane. Details of the construction of the housing of Tomaki are not evident; however, it is apparent that the scan face of Tomaki's device mates with the body portion along two opposing edges. No provision is made for sealing engagement of the scan face to the body portion around the entire perimeter of the scan face.

The present invention is directed to a housing for a portable handheld electronic reader/scanner particularly adapted for use in adverse environmental conditions. Thus, the body portion of the housing is molded as a single piece of thermoplastic elastomer, as is the scan face. A tongue-and-groove arrangement is used around the entire perimeter of the scan face and mating perimeter portion of the body so that a substantially hermetic seal is achieved between the scan face and the body, even without the use of a gasket.

Independent claim 6 has been amended to expressly recite the above-discussed distinguishing characteristics of the subject invention. Specifically, claim 6 now requires a one-piece, hollow body portion made of a thermoplastic elastomer, a scan face also made of a thermoplastic elastomer, and a tongue-and-groove arrangement around the entire perimeter of the scan face and mating perimeter portion of the body. Accordingly, Applicant believes that claim 6, as well as claims 7-11 depending therefrom, defines patentable subject matter over the prior art of record.

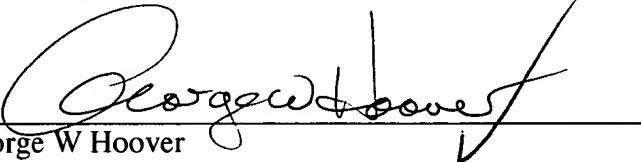
Reconsideration of the amended claims and allowance thereof are respectfully requested at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on February 24, 2000.


Name D.L. Mendryga February 24, 2000
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